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Christianity and Islam

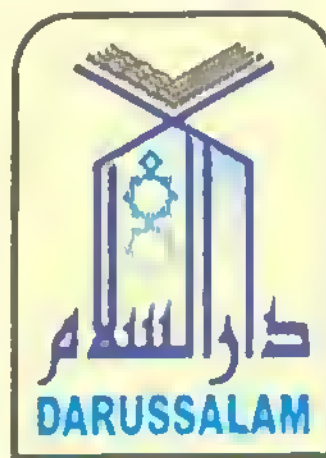
according to the
Bible and the Qur'ân

Naser Al-Moghamis

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CONTENTS

Preface	5
Introduction	6
Authenticity of the Bible	12
Authenticity of the Qur'ân	13
What the Bible and the Qur'ân Say about God:	14
Does God Relax?	14
God's Power	15
Can God be Seen?	16
God's Description	17
Is God Unjust?	18
Does God Sleep?	19
Is God Unhelpful?	20
Does God have a Family?	21
What the Bible and the Qur'ân Say about the Prophets:	23
Prophet Moses and Prophet Aaron (pbuh)	24
Prophet Lot (pbuh)	25
Prophet Solomon (pbuh)	26
Prophet Jacob (pbuh)	27
Prophet David (pbuh)	28
Prophet Job (pbuh)	29
What the Bible and the Qur'ân Say about Prophet Jesus:	30
The Genealogy of Prophet Jesus (pbuh)	30
Was Jesus (pbuh) Crucified and Cursed?	32
Prophet Jesus' Behavior Towards His Mother	33
Prophet Jesus' Behavior Towards People	35
The Mission of Prophet Jesus (pbuh)	36
The Divinity of Prophet Jesus (pbuh)	37
What the Bible and the Qur'ân Say about the Day of Judgment	42
According to the Old Testament	42
According to the New Testament	44

What the Bible and the Qur'ân Say about Women:	46
Women's Nature	46
Women's Original Sin	47
Women's Veil	48
Women's Role	50
Women's Testimony	52
Women's Righteousness	54
Women's Inheritance	55
Women's Cleanness	57
Other Teachings and Beliefs	59
The Source of Religion	59
Faith and Deeds	64
The Original Sin	66
Crucifixion	69
Forgiveness	73
Marriage	75
Polygamy	77
Incest	79
The Biblical and the Qur'ânic Styles	81
Wisdom and Knowledge	83
Racism	84
Killing the Enemy's Women and Children	87
Languages	89
Worship	90
Forbidding Evil	93
Hypocrisy	95
Wine	96
Bribery	98
Appendix 1	
Examples of the Contradictions in the Bible	99
Appendix 2	
What the Bible Says about the Coming of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)	103
Appendix 3	
What They Say about the Qur'ân	108
References	112

Preface

A religion should not be judged by the opinions and attitudes of its biased enemies. Neither should it be judged by the behavior of some of its nominal followers because there are bad people among every religious group, and making a judgment based on those people is misleading as they may be violating their religion. A religion should rather be judged by its teachings as well as the effects of these teachings on its **real** followers.

Since the Bible is the basis for the teachings of Christianity, and the Qur'ân is the main source of Islamic Religion and Law, this book compares Islam and Christianity according to a comparative study of the Bible and the Qur'ân. This approach ensures that the comparison is based on facts and not on prejudice or misunderstanding.

It should be emphasized that when this book talks about Islam, it does not give exaggerated or insincere information to persuade the reader, but rather presents the real teachings of Islam. Everything mentioned in this book, about Islam, is **supported by Verses from the Qur'ân** which was revealed about fourteen hundred years ago. Likewise, everything mentioned about Christianity is supported by verses from the Bible.

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Introduction

For the benefit of Christian readers, this introduction provides some essential information about Islam in addition to the Islamic attitude towards Christianity and the Bible:

Who is Allâh?

Say (O Muhammad): “He is Allâh, the One and Only; Allâh, to Whom the creatures turn for their needs; He begets not, nor was He begotten; and there is none like Him.” (Qur’ân, 112:1-4)

‘Allâh’ is the name of the God of Muslims, Christians and Jews. He is the God of Prophet Moses ‘peace be upon him’ (pbuh), Prophet Jesus (pbuh), Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and all the other Prophets. The name ‘Allâh’ is not a new name, but rather the true name of God. It is used by Muslims as well as Arabic-speaking Christians.

... and say: “We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you (Jews and Christians); our God and your God is One, and to Him we have submitted (as Muslims).” (Qur’ân, 29:46)

What is the Qur’ân?

The Qur’ân is the literal Word of Allâh revealed to His Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), through the angel Gabriel, about fourteen hundred years ago. The Qur’ân is the eternal miracle of Islam. Allâh has challenged mankind to produce anything to match it or even match one short chapter of it, yet no human has ever been able to meet the challenge.

And if you are in doubt about what We have revealed to Our slave (Muhammad), then produce a chapter of the like thereof, and call your witnesses (supporters and helpers) besides Allâh if you are truthful. (Qur’ân, 2:23)

Since the Qur’ân is the literal Word of Allâh, it exists only in its original Arabic in which it was revealed, and cannot be translated into another language. However, for the benefit of those who do not speak Arabic, the meanings of the Qur’ân can be translated. Therefore, the quotations in this book are not the Qur’ân but only translations of its meanings.

What Does the Word ‘Islam’ Mean?

The word ‘Islam’ means **the conscious and peaceful obedience and submission to the Will of the only true God, ‘Allâh’**. All religions were named either after their founders or after nations or tribes e.g. Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity, while the name ‘Islam’ is not associated with any person, tribe or nation but was given by Allâh in the Qur’ân:

This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. (Qur’ân, 5:3)

The word ‘Muslim’ is a description; anyone who submits himself to Allâh’s Will and obeys Him is a Muslim.

All the Prophets were Muslims because they obeyed Allâh and submitted themselves to His Will. Furthermore, the true followers and companions of those Prophets were Muslims:

Then when Jesus came to know of their disbelief, he said: “Who will be my helpers in Allâh’s cause?” The disciples said: “We are the helpers of Allâh (i.e. we will strive in His cause); we believe in Allâh, and bear witness that we are Muslims (i.e. we submit to Allâh). Our Lord! We believe in what You have sent down and we follow the Messenger (Jesus) so write us down among those who bear witness.” (Qur’ân, 3:52,53)

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: “Both in this world and in the Hereafter, I am the nearest of all people to Jesus - the son of Mary. The Prophets are paternal brothers; their mothers are different, but their religion is one (Islamic Monotheism).” (Bukhari)

Early Muslims

Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and all the other Prophets from Adam to Muhammad (peace be upon them) were sent with the same Message, to command human beings to worship Allâh alone, and

not to join in worship partners with him. Prophet Jesus (pbuh) never claimed divinity. He taught the Oneness of Allâh and confirmed that he was just a Messenger:

Jesus said, "... I am returning to my Father and your Father, to **my God and your God.**" (John 20:17)

By myself **I can do nothing**; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him **who sent me.** (John 5:30)

The disciples followed the teachings of Prophet Jesus (pbuh). They worshiped Allâh alone and kept religion pure for Him. They believed and supported Prophet Jesus (pbuh) to such an extent that Allâh held them up as an excellent example to Muslims in the Qur'ân:

O you who believe! Be you helpers (in the cause) of Allâh as said Jesus - son of Mary, to the disciples: "Who will be my helpers in Allâh's cause?" The disciples said: "We are the helpers of Allâh (i.e. we will strive in His cause)! Then a group of the Children of Israel believed and a group disbelieved. So, We gave power to those who believed against their enemies, and they became the victorious. (Qur'ân, 61:14)

Jesus the merciful Prophet (pbuh) commanded his disciples to be kind and merciful and to forgive others. Let the Qur'ân now describe the followers of Prophet Jesus (pbuh):

Then, We sent after them Our Messengers, and We sent Jesus - son of Mary, and gave him the Injeel (Gospel), and placed **compassion** and **mercy** in the hearts of those who followed him. (Qur'ân, 57:27)

Verily, you will find the strongest among mankind in enmity to the believers (Muslims) the Jews and those who are idolaters, and you will find the **nearest in love** to the believers those who say: "We are **Christians.**" That is because amongst them are priests and monks, and **they are not arrogant.** (Qur'ân, 5:82)

After the Ascension of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) to heaven, most of the Christians remained Unitarian. They used to believe in the Oneness of Allâh following the teachings of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and all the other Prophets. They did not believe in the doctrines of Trinity, Original Sin, Blood Atonement or Divine Sonship of

Prophet Jesus (pbuh). After centuries of persecution against the Unitarian Christians, the Pauline Church prevailed and the teachings of Paul replaced the teachings of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and Paul became the real founder of today's Christianity.

Paul, the **self-appointed** thirteenth apostle who **never saw Jesus** (pbuh), wrote more Books of the Bible than any other author, while Prophet Jesus (pbuh) **did not write a single word**, as the **original** Gospel revealed by Allâh to Jesus (pbuh) was lost. However, Paul replaced the Gospel of Jesus (pbuh) with a gospel written by him and invented the doctrines of Original Sin, Blood Atonement and Divine Sonship of Prophet Jesus (pbuh). With the exception of few verses, all the verses in Paul's letters are his own words and not the words of Prophet Jesus (pbuh):

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead, according to **my (Paul) gospel.** (2 Timothy 2:8) (KJV)

After the loss of the original Gospel of Prophet Jesus (pbuh), many gospels were written. These gospels include some of the genuine teachings of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) mixed with people's own texts and interpretations which were influenced by the beliefs of that period. Therefore, it became difficult and sometimes impossible to know which parts came from Allâh and which from people. As a result, Christians deviated from the teachings of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and followed the teachings of hundreds of monks and priests which resulted in hundreds of religious groups having different beliefs.

The Effects of the Contradictions in the Bible

The errors and contradictions in the Bible make some Christians reject Christianity and view the Bible as merely a historical book. Those people continue their disbelief to the extent that they deny the existence of God and consequently, they do not believe in all the Prophets including Prophet Jesus (pbuh).

Those people **shock the Muslim** more than anyone else, because no Muslim is a Muslim if he or she does not believe in Jesus Christ (pbuh). The Muslim, in compliance with **the Qur'ân**,